

A View From \_\_\_\_\_

# HISTORY

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The Kensington House



View from the Kensington House

**W**hat history lurks in the North Redmond neighborhood? As the kick-off of the neighborhood plan begins, inquiring planners want to know.

A scrap of the history was discovered about the now-demolished Smith-Sales House (or Kensington House, as it is currently known.) This was once part of a larger homestead established by a Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith later married a woman with the last name of Sales - most likely a relative of John Sales, one of the four original homesteaders at Avondale. Tax records from the 1930s list the owner as Bell D. Sales Smith.

According to local sources, the Smiths built a log cabin in the northern portion of the homestead while they "proved up" on their homestead claim, or established that they were living on the land. To do this, the Smiths planted apple trees, some of which are still alive today.

The Smiths abandoned the log cabin and moved into the house upon its completion in 1917. The lower 20 acres, including the main house were later sold and eventually belonged to Arthur and Barbara Strom in 1955. Barbara Strom was one of the activists on the "Save the Sammamish Valley" committee and was instrumental in getting the Sammamish Bike Trial built

A historic sign on the NE 116th Street trail tells of this history.

If you have any other tidbits of Redmond history that you would like to share, please call the Redmond Planning Department at 425-556-2440.